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(N. S.) Vol. 3, No. 4. April, 1914.

BULLETIN

OF THE

Medical Library Association

QUARTERLY

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Biological & Medical Serials

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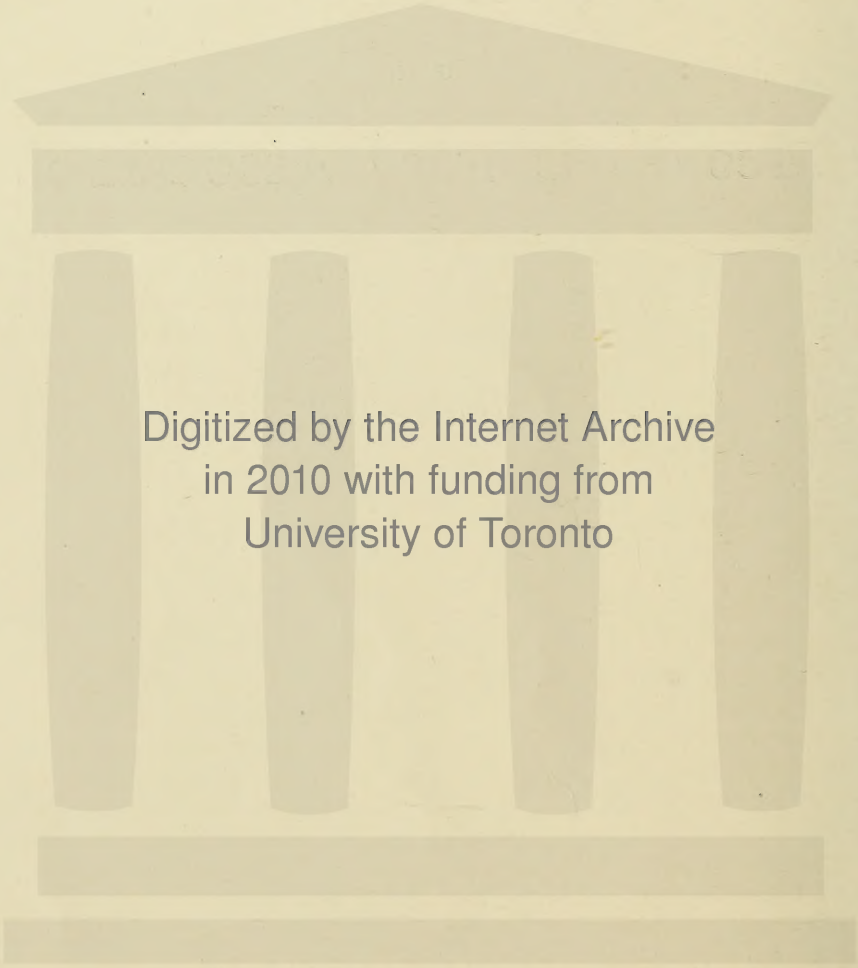
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THE PROPOSED GENERAL CATALOGUE OF INCUNABULA.

By SIR WILLIAM OSLER, Oxford, England.*

I congratulate the Association upon having this delightful talk from Dr. Wilson upon Celsus. I am sure it has not only entertained us but instructed us. As I was in a way the begetter and beguiler of the College in connection with this Celsus, I am very glad indeed that on a previous occasion the copy that I had bought specifically for the College of Physicians in Philadelphia was beguiled away from me. I have long been interested in Celsus. I own one beautiful copy and have bought two others, one the copy which I bought eight or ten years ago at auction specifically for the College of Physicians in Philadelphia. When I reached London (the auction sale having taken place when I was on the ocean), I visited the College of Physicians. Dr. Payne, the Librarian, said to me, "I wonder are you the rascal that bought the copy of Celsus over our heads at Sotheby's." I replied that I had not heard, that I had sent a bid for it, and that I wanted it to give to Dr. Mitchell for the College of Physicians in Philadelphia, as I have always felt that a library of that distinction in a College of that antiquity had not reached its full ripeness until it had a copy of Celsus. I went to Sotheby's and found that I had secured the copy, but having affiliations with the College of Physicians of London and a very strong friendship for Dr. Payne, and knowing that all things and better things come to those who have the gift of waiting, I sent that copy to Dr. Payne, and said that I was very glad to present it to the College Library. And really I was glad when I saw at Quaritch's a few months ago this other copy, as it is an exceptionally good one, by far the best copy I have seen, one of the best, indeed, that exists except the famous British Museum copy, which is fully as large and has the advantage of the famous Grolier binding. *It* is by far the most superb copy that exists, and I know of no other copy that comes in the second rank except that which is in the College of Physicians of Philadelphia today. While it was a very large price to give, it was, I think, worth it, and it was not a very serious depletion, I am sure, of the pockets of the Fellows, and I am sure when they saw the book they must have been very glad. I have always felt that in the matter

*Read at the 16th Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., May 5, 1913.

of libraries it was not only the duty but the privilege of those members of the profession who had a little spare cash and were in the receipt of large fees, to sanctify, so to speak, those fees, particularly when they were very large, by devoting a certain percentage to the purchase of rare books for the libraries in which they were interested. My surgical colleagues I have always bled with great pleasure for the libraries with which I have been connected.

We have listened to Dr. Wilson's talk with much pleasure. One suggestion I would make; while the Celsus of 1478 is an early edition, there are a great many earlier editions than he mentioned, and that brings me to the point I wish to refer: to the question of the catalogue of incunabula. Of course the importance of incunabula is recognized by all who study books; for two reasons; in the first place, the early printed books give us a mental impression of the men of that period, of what books and manuscripts they thought of value. Recently, in that connection, in order to get a mental picture of the profession in the first twenty-five years of the art of printing, I have been going over all the incunabula printed in that first twenty-five years up to 1480. I wanted to know what those men thought were the important things when this new art of printing came in. It is a very remarkable picture. There are more than 100—about 160—separate medical incunabula printed before 1480. Now one would have thought that the great majority of those writings would have been those of the fathers of medicine as we know them. Far from it. Hippocrates, Galen, the Greek writers did not come to their own until a later period. There was only this small book of a Latin author, Celsus; one small edition of Hippocrates, a copy of the Aphorisms; and one book by Galen. Those represent the ones printed up to 1480. They did not really recognize the importance of Greek medicine, nor had Greek medicine come to its own until a later period. The books they did not think about were the mediæval books such as those written in the 13th and 14th centuries, and the books of the School of Salerno.

In my very brief communication my desire is to call attention to the very important work which is now in process of formation, the making of a general catalogue of incunabula, and to ask that those in charge of medical libraries in America participate in this work. There have been, as you know, many catalogues in incunabula prepared, the first as early as 1688; then the famous Haines catalogue, the large work that Coppinger supplements; then the splendid work of the British Museum, which includes the Bodleian, and the great catalogue in process of formation in France, the catalogue of all incunabula of French writers.

At the instigation of the Prussian Minister of Education a Commission was organized in 1904 in Berlin, with one or two associates in other parts of the German Empire, in order to draw up a complete catalogue of all incunabula; not only in Germany, but in France and other countries, in fact throughout the world, and this Commission, having completed the work in Germany, is now asking the co-operation of libraries in other parts of the world. The German inventory has compiled 7,000 titles; that means many more editions. They have already got the list of the incunabula in Austria; it is being formed in Russia and in Switzerland; in France it is being undertaken, and it has been completed already in Denmark. The extent of the work you may judge from the fact that so far they have definitely determined the location of 150,000 copies of incunabula, one-third in Prussia; one-third in Bavaria; and one-third in other German States; that means copies, not 150,000 editions. In Great Britain we were fortunate enough to have a visit a few months ago from the Secretary of this Commission. He has stirred up interest there and the Bibliographical Society is undertaking the publication of all of the British incunabula and is preparing the census of the incunabula in the public and private libraries in Great Britain. Fortunately it is already done for the British Museum and already done for the Bodleian, but there are some scores of public libraries rich in incunabula, and of these the catalogue will be made by the Prussian Commission.

It is very important, I think, that some steps should be taken, and by nobody more suitably than by this Association, for the collaboration with this Prussian body so as to give them a full statement of the medical incunabula existing in libraries and private hands in this country. I do not know how many exist in the Surgeon-General's Library, probably a larger number than in any other, but there are many in other libraries in the country, and it would not be difficult to make a list which would be of help to this Commission. I promised that I would speak to this Association and ask that certain members would make it their business to prepare lists which could be utilized for the general inventory which will be published in the course of a few years by the Prussian Government. It would be a great pity if this country is not represented. It will be represented in the general catalogue of incunabula, but it would be a great pity if medical incunabula were not represented in this list.

If librarians having treasures in their charge would take the matter in hand it would be a very useful and helpful thing to prepare such a list and forward it to this Commission. The study of incuna-

bula is a very interesting one. As I have said, I have been interested in it from the purely historical standpoint. I like to get as far as possible into the mental attitude of the profession at a certain period, and it has been of great interest to me to ferret out the list of incunabula printed prior to 1480. I have already extended it very largely. I have found a great many books which had not been referred to, and I think it will be of very great interest as presenting a picture of the mental attitude of the profession toward medical learning of the period, and I do not know that one could get such a picture in any other way or so satisfactorily.

Dr. Garrison asked how complete the catalogue was to be and whether it would be triplex.

Dr. Osler replied that they had evidently done the thing with Teutonic completeness. He said: I have tested it; on several occasions I have sent to them asking where such and such an edition exists, and where I could get a photograph of it. In everyone of the applications I have made as to the existence of a book I have received within two or three days a statement as to where it could be obtained. They evidently have got, as far as Germany is concerned, a very complete catalogue. The men doing the work are thoroughly up to date and the Commission is backed by the Prussian Minister, who is interested in it, and I do not think there will be any doubt that there will be money enough to issue it in bibiographic order.

NEWS ITEMS.

The **Boston Medical Library** has in preparation plans for the construction of an addition to its present building. The new structure will contain a fireproof stack with a capacity of 240,000 volumes, and a large periodical room.

Under the will of the late Miss Ellen B. Wyman of Newburyport, the Boston Medical Library is the residuary legatee of approximately eighty-five thousand dollars. The money is given the Library in memory of Miss Wyman's father and is to be known as the Samuel Wheeler Wyman Fund. One-half of the income is to be used for the purchase of new foreign works on medical and surgical subjects, especially those treating of diseases of the eyes; the other half for the binding of periodicals.

Clifton Springs Sanatorium. There has been organized, during the last few months, at the Clifton Springs Sanatorium, Clifton Springs, N. Y., a small medical library of something less than a thousand volumes. Membership in the Medical Library Association was early applied for, and through the Exchange a full set of the

first series of the Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General had been obtained. The second series has been purchased, making the set complete to date; a particularly fortunate acquisition for so young a library. Subscription has been made to the best American medical periodicals, to one or two of English publication, and a few of German. Periodical subscriptions have been maintained for some years already by the members of the medical staff, and the medical library of Dr. Henry Foster, founder of the Institution, was included in what has formed the nucleus of the present library. Recent text-books have been added and there now seems to be good equipment for general work. The library is for the use of the medical staff of the Sanatorium, and loans are made for certain short periods to nurses of the training school.

The clinical records of the Institution come under the care of the librarian, and methods similar to those in use at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, have been established. The work of organization has been carried on by Mrs. Grace W. Myers, Librarian of the Treadwell Library of that Hospital. She will, however, return to Boston shortly, leaving the work in charge of Miss M. M. Weston, who will continue as Librarian. This library is known as the Medical Library of Clifton Springs Sanatorium.

College of Physicians of Philadelphia, in the last annual report of the Library just issued, shows the following conditions, November 1, 1913:

Total number of volumes in the Library, including the bound volumes and 8,808 unbound "Reports" and "Transactions"	101,340
Number of unbound "Theses" and "Dissertations"	11,227
Number of unbound pamphlets	78,580

Included in the above total there are 3,084 volumes known as "reserves," consisting of second copies of some of the more imporatnt periodical publications, and 3,044 volumes more or less incomplete.

The duplicates, which are not included in the above total, number 5,315.

The following table shows the number of volumes in the various divisions of the Library:

	Bound.	Incomplete and unbound.	Total.
General Library	72,184	2,997	75,181
Lewis Library	13,562	44	13,606
On permanent deposit:			
S. D. Gross Library	3,525	3	3,528
Library of the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia.	217	0	217
			92,532

The Library has received from all sources, during the past year, 5,391 volumes, 9,760 pamphlets, and 20,798 numbers of various periodicals. Of these, 642 volumes, 846 pamphlets, and 648 numbers of journals were received in exchange.

Total number of current periodicals received at this date, 1,230.

New subscriptions added during the past year: American 15; foreign, 63. Total, 78.

Since the Report was announced to the College, another Library Fund of fifteen thousand dollars, known as the "Horace Magee Memorial Book Fund" has been received by the College.

Dayton Public Library. In the great flood of March, 1913, the Dayton Public Library and Museum lost nearly 50,000 books. The loss fell most heavily on the Reference Department, the Children's Collection and the Medical Library. The work of rehabilitation, including replacement of books and restoration of building and equipment is estimated at $85,000.00.

The Medical library was a total loss. The appeal of the Montgomery County Medical Society to the profession for aid in restoration met a generous response. Several thousand volumes were promptly offered. For obvious reasons, the aim of the committee having this work in charge, was to build a working library for the physicians of Dayton, of whom many lost every book in their possession, rather than to form a reference or historical collection. This will come later.

The trustees of the Public Library, the Library Committee of the Montgomery County Medical Society and the physicians of Dayton give grateful thanks to all who proffered assistance.

The **Georgia Medical Society** has purchased a four story brick building on Drayton Street, opposite Forsythe Park. This building has been remodeled and renovated throughout. It has an English basement entrance with a Colonial portal. On the basement floor is the entrance hall, cloak room, library storage room, lavatory and servants' quarters.

On the main floor is the meeting hall, a committee room, library room and reading room. All of these rooms will be fitted out in the most attractive and comfortable manner. The meeting hall will be particularly attractive. It is equipped with permanent opera seats, all facing the president's chair and a large mahogany desk. On the second floor there is an apartment, five rooms with bath, and on the third floor there is another apartment, three rooms with bath. The apartments are to be rented to desirable tenants. They are equipped

with the most modern conveniences. Dr. J. Ewing Mears of Philadelphia, an honorary member of the Georgia Medical Society and of the Medical Association of Georgia made a substantial donation to the building fund, and donations were also made by members of the local profession. Dr. Mears has announced his intention of establishing in the Library of the Society, a foundation, to be known as the William Mears Memorial Medical Library Foundation in memory of his ancestor, William Mears, of Savannah, who was one of Oglethorpe's colonists. Dr. Mears has made this foundation immediately effective by a gift of money to be used for the purchase of surgical monographs, and by the gift of a number of excellent books.

The **Hartford Medical Society** received for its Library last fall a collection of 500 volumes from a late member, a well known surgeon of Hartford, Dr. H. G. Howe. The books include many recent surgical works and have been of great value to the library.

At present, a list is being made of the material which the library has on child welfare, for the Juvenile Commission of Hartford. The topics include Medical inspection of Schools, Outdoor schools, School hygiene, Defective children, and other topics.

The librarian was able to report an increase of 103 per cent. in number of members using the reading-room for 1913. There was also a decided gain in number of questions answered, and in the circulation.

The **Jefferson Medical College Library** received regularly by subscription, gifts from editors and publishers, or College Office, through Dr. Patterson, about 73 American and foreign medical periodicals.

Number of readers using the Library..... 273
Number of books consulted during the year.....10,879
Total number of volumes in the Library, Oct. 1, 1913.. 5,365

The **Medical College of Virginia** has moved its Library into a fire-proof building. A librarian is in constant attendance, and the service is in every way greatly improved.

A small consignment of copies of the Report of the Proceedings of the English-Speaking Conference on Infant Mortality held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, August 4th and 5th, 1913, has been sent to the headquarters of the American Association for Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality, for sale in this country. The price of the report, (456 pages), is 80 cents net, postpaid.

Copies may be had by writing to

Miss Gertrude B. Knipp, *Executive Secretary*,
American Association for Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality
1211 Cathedral Street,
Baltimore, Md.

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

LIBRARY MEMBERS.

Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, Ala.
Librarian, Miss Lila May Chapman.

Boston Medical Library, 8, The Fenway, Boston, Mass.
Librarian, Mr. James F. Ballard.

Cass County Medical Library, Fargo, North Dakota.
Librarian, Dr. C. N. Callander.

Chenango County Medical Library, Norwich, Chenango Co., N. Y.
Librarian, Miss N. Louise Ruckteshler.

Cincinnati Hospital Library, Central Ave., Cincinnati, O.
Librarian, Dr. E. W. Mitchell.

Cleveland Medical Library Association, 2318 Prospect Avenue, S. E., Cleveland, Ohio.
Librarian, Mrs. Sarah W. Harding.

Clifton Springs Medical Library, Clifton Springs, New York.
Librarian, Miss Maud M. Weston.

College of Physicians and Surgeons, Library of, Calvert and Saratoga Streets, Baltimore, Md.
Librarian, Miss Lucy G. Blake.

College of Physicians of Phila., 22nd St., above Chestnut, Phila., Pa.
Librarian, Mr. Charles Perry Fisher.

Cornell Univ. Med. Col. Library, Ithaca Division, N. Y.
Librarian, Miss Hilda A. Clark.

The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.
Librarian, Mr. C. W. Andrews.

Denver, Library of the Medical Society, of City and County of, 266 Metropolitan Bldg., Denver, Col.
Librarian, Miss Margery Malins.

Fall River Med. Soc., Library of, 84 N. Main St., Fall River, Mass.
Librarian, Dr. George L. Richards.

Georgia Medical Society, Library of, 612 Drayton St., Savannah, Ga.
Librarian, Dr. V. H. Bassett.

Georgia, Univ. of, Library of the Medical Dept., Augusta, Georgia.
Librarian, Mrs. G. C. Bentley.

Hanover Public Library, Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania.
Librarian, Miss Mabel B. Champlin.

Hartford Medical Society, Library of, 38 Prospect St., Hartford, Conn.
Librarian, Miss Alice S. Griswold.

Harvard Medical School Library, Longwood Ave., Boston, Mass.
Librarian, Miss Frances N. A. Whitman.

Hennepin County Medical Society Library, 1114 Donaldson Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Librarian, Dr. J. P. Sedgwick.

Iowa, Library of State University, Iowa City, Iowa.
Librarian, Miss Jennie E. Roberts.

Jefferson Medical College Library, 10th and Walnut Sts., Phila., Pa.
Librarian, Mr. Charles Frankenberger.

Johns Hopkins Hospital Library, Baltimore, Md.
Librarian, Miss M. W. Blogg.

Kansas City Medical Library Club, Rialto Building, Kansas ,Missouri.
Librarian, Mrs. Rosa M. Hibbard.

Lackawanna Co. Med. Soc. Library, 2416 N. Main Ave., Scranton, Pa.
Librarian, Dr. J. M. Wainwright.

Lane Medical Library, Cooper Medical College, Sacramento and Webster Streets, San Francisco, California.
Librarian, Miss Louise Ophüls.

Luzerne Co. Med. Soc. Library, Anthracite Bldg., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Librarian, Dr. Lewis H. Taylor.

McGill University, Library of, Montreal, Canada.
Librarian, Miss M. R. Charlton.

Mayo Clinic Library, Rochester, Minn.
Librarian, Mrs. M. H. Mellish.

Medical Society of the County of Kings, Library of the, 1313 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Librarian, Mr. Albert Huntington.

Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, Library of, 1211 Cathedral St., Baltimore, Md.
Librarian, Miss M. C. Noyes.

Medical Library Association, Newark, N. J.
Librarian, Dr. Frank W. Pinneo.

Michigan, University of, Library of Medical Dept., Ann Arbor, Mich.
Librarian, Mr. Theodore W. Koch.

Minnesota, University of, Library, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Librarian, Mr. J. S. Gerould.

Morgan County Medical Society, Library of, Jacksonville, Ill.
Librarian,

New York Academy of Medicine, 17 W. 43rd St., New York City.
Librarian, Mr. John S. Brownne.

Orleans Parish Medical Society Library, 141 Elk Place, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Librarian, Dr. Howard D. King.

Pennsylvania, University of, Library of the Department of Research Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.
Librarian, Dr. R. M. Pearce.

Philippine Bureau of Science, Library of, Manila, P. I.
Librarian, Miss Mary Polk.

Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine, 43 Federal St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Librarian, Miss Williamina Duncan.

Pueblo County Medical Library, Pueblo, Col.
Librarian, Dr. W. W. Bulette.

Quine Library, Congress and Honore Sts., Chicago, Ill.
Librarian, Miss M. M. Loomis.

Ramsay County Medical Library, Lowry Arcade Building., St. Paul, Minnesota.
Librarian, Dr. T. H. Dickson.

Rush Medical College Library, 1748 Harrison St., Chicago, Ill.
Librarian, Miss C. A. McAuliffe.

St. Louis Medical Soc. Library, 3525 Pine St., St. Louis, Mo.
Librarian, Miss Ella B. Lawrence.

San Francisco County Medical Society Library, 916 Butler Building, San Francisco, California.
Librarian, Dr. Leo Eloesser.

Schuylkill County Medical Library Association, 2nd and Market Sts., Pottsville, Pa.
Librarian, Dr. Gouverneur H. Boyer.

Syracuse University, Library of the College of Medicine, 309 Orange Street, Syracuse, N. Y.
Librarian, Dr. F. W. Marlow.

Texas, University of, Library of the Medical Dept., Galveston, Texas.
Librarian, Miss Ethel L. Hibbs.

Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.
Librarian, Mrs. G. W. Myers.

Vancouver Medical Library, Vancouver, Canada.
Librarian, Miss E. A. Keenlyside.

Virginia, Medical College of, Richmond, Va.
Librarian, Dr. E. C. L. Miller.

Washington Medical Library Association, Seattle, Washington.
Librarian, Miss Alice B. Johnson.

Washington University Library, 19th and Locust Sts., St. Louis, Mo.
Librarian, Mr. C. E. Hutchings.

Wayne County Medical Society, Library of the, 33 E. High Street, Detroit, Michigan.
Librarian, Miss Jane A. White.

Wheeling Medical Library Association, 61 14th St., Wheeling, W. Va,
Librarian, Dr. Frank LeMoyne Hupp.

Worcester District Medical Library, 6 Linden St., Worcester, Mass.
Librarian, Mr. Merrick Lincoln.

Yale University, Library of Medical Department, New Haven, Conn.
Librarian, Prof. J. C. Schwab.

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BULLETIN

OF THE

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

EDITED BY

JOHN RUHRÄH, M. D. MISS M. C. NOYES

Address all communications to the
Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 1211 Cathedral Street,
Baltimore, Md.

VOL. III. APRIL, 1914. No. 4

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL AMENDMENT.

The Medical Library Association had an opportunity to demonstrate its usefulness in taking up the question of the bill to transfer the Surgeon General's Library to the Library of Congress which would have carried with it the cessation of the Index Catalogue and incidentally the Index Medicus. This proposed change was included in the Army Appropriation Bill, and as soon as the facts were known the Association communicated at once with all its members, and urged them to write or telegraph their Senators and the Conference Committee explaning the importance to American medicine of the Library and the two publications just mentioned. From the replies it would seem that everyone responded at once, and it is to be hoped that this influence, and that from other sources, will effectually demonstrate the necessity of maintaining the integrity of the Library. We cannot refrain from quoting from the letter of Dr. Adami, of McGill University to the Association:

"As one who is not an American, may I say that it would be an international disaster were they to transfer the Library of the Surgeon General's Office to the Library of Congress, and the publication of the Index Medicus and Index Catalogue were brought to an end. It is difficult to realize of what service those two publications have been to Medicine the world over; or what has been the influence also to Medicine the world over, of the existence of the marvellously

progressive Library of the Surgeon General's Office, and its service in bibliographical research. To merge it into a general library and deprive us of what is regarded everywhere as *the* model Medical Library, would effect untold harm to medical advance. I would go so far as to say that the outstanding service to medicine by the United States has been this Library with its publications, and the loss of prestige by the suggested step would be most severe."

This letter explains the general tone of almost all received. To scatter in a large general library the invaluable collection of medical works would be little short of a crime and to cease the publication of the Index Medicus and the Index Catalogue would be to stop a labor that has meant more to the development of medical libraries, and to medical research, than one could adequately express. The prestige of American medicine abroad would suffer a tremendous blow, and any such move must be regarded as a decided step backward.

Several of the letters received contained expressions of surprise that the Index Medicus could be affected by any such measure. True, this is financed by the Carnegie Institution; but if the Index Catalogue were stopped it would be difficult to obtain the necessary information, and the expense greatly increased. The subscription price for the later volumes of the old series of the Index Medicus was $25.00 and it was discontinued because that did not pay for the publication. The present subscription price must be very inadequate and only a few years ago word was sent out that there was a question as to whether the present series should be continued. Much of the information stored in our medical libraries would become useless for ready reference if this great key to all literature should be abandoned for any reason whatever.

We feel sure that the idea must have originated through misinformation or misapprehension, and we are glad to report that this pernicious movement was killed in the Conference Committee where it originated.

THE COMING ANNUAL MEETING.

The 17th Annual Meeting will be held at Atlantic City during the week of the American Medical Association Meetings. The meetings will be held at the Marlborough-Blenheim Hotel on Monday evening, the 22nd and Tuesday morning, the 23rd. Full particulars will be given in the program.

Members who wish to present papers, or have suggestions as to topics for discussion, will please communicate at once with the Secretary, Dr. John Ruhräh, Baltimore, Md.

FOR EXCHANGE.

Abbott, A. C. Hygiene of transmissable diseases. Phila. 1899. 311 p.

Allen, N. Physical development. Boston. 1888. 348 p.

Amer. Jour. of Obstet. v. 12-15. New York. 1879-1882.

Amer. Laryn. Assn. Transactions. 1913.

Amer. Proct. Soc. Transactions. 1913.

Amer. Quar. Micro. Jour. v. 1, No. 1. New York. 1878.

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